

805-7 BULLITT AVENUE (Double house)
Jeannette
Westmoreland County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-6101

HABS
PA
65-JEAN,
50-

PHOTOGRAPHS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
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ADDENDUM TO:
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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

805-7 BULLITT AVENUE (DOUBLE HOUSE)

HABS No. PA-6101

- LOCATION: 805-07 Bullitt Avenue, Jeanette, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania
- SIGNIFICANCE: A high concentration of window, tableware, bottle and specialty glass plants distinguished Jeannette as "The Glass City" early in its history. Significant housing stock consists of company-built row and detached double houses, and several privately constructed dwellings.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Apparently built by the Chambers & McKee Glass Company after the firm purchased the property from H. Sellers McKee in late 1890, this house and two identical ones to either side appear on the earliest Sanborn maps of Jeannette from 1891. This and thirteen other company double houses were then sold to a group of local investors in 1903. The property changed hands five more times before being sold back to the American Window Glass Company, the successor firm to Chambers & McKee, in 1923. One of the last company-owned houses in the study area, it passed back into private hands in the mid-1930s.

At the time of the census in 1910, three families were living here. In No. 805 were the Young and Jakeway families. A.R. Young was a shover at a glass factory. His wife Rachael and young daughter lived with him, as well as a young servant girl, although she apparently did not work for the Youngs. The Jakeway family listing shows how skilled trades were often family traditions in the glass works. John Jakeway was an Englishman who had immigrated to the United States in 1881. He was a blower at one of the glass works, as was his oldest son William. The younger son was a gatherer. Living with the four Jakeways were a niece and a boarder employed as a helper at a glass factory. Mary O'Toole and her son Joseph rented No. 807. Both were Irish immigrants. Mary worked as a washer in one of the glass works, and Joseph was a salesman.

Frank and Ruth Mangan purchased the house from the American Window Glass Company in 1936. Frank Mangan was a glass cutter. The couple lived in No. 805 and rented the adjoining unit. The house remained in the Mangan family until 1985.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

This four bay by two bay double house is one version of a standard type H. Sellers McKee and the Chambers & McKee Glass Company built in the neighborhood. The original house appears to have included two-story ells toward the rear with a cross gable roof that is repeated in a steeper fashion toward the street. The wide horizontal siding is a newer alteration, as are the metal awnings and wrought iron porch roof supports. Small front porches to either side, though with shed roofs rather than gable, were a common type in the neighborhood before full-width front porches were built on most of the double houses. The rear shows another common typology for adding to these houses: two story additions to either side of the ell that extend beyond the line of the original house and have shallow sloping roofs to either side.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Insurance Maps of Jeannette, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1891, 1895, 1900, 1905, 1910, 1916, 1925.

Deed Books. Recorder of Deeds, Westmoreland County Courthouse, Greensburg, Pennsylvania, 205/366, 357/111, 367/149, 534/193, 549/224, 563/78, 567/572, 754/180, 984/496, 1253/468, 2612/258.

City Directories, 1897, 1913, 1923, 1928, 1948, 1960.

Tax Assessment Books. Westmoreland County Tax Assessment Office, Westmoreland County Courthouse, Greensburg, Pennsylvania.

U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. 1910 census manuscripts on microfilm.

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

In February 1987, the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) and the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) began a multi-year historical and architectural documentation project in southwestern Pennsylvania. Carried out in conjunction with America's Industrial Heritage Project (AIHP), HABS and HAER undertook a comprehensive documentation of Jeannette, documenting industries, housing and cultural institutions.